

John Famous' Tenant House at Mill Green
Mill Green Road
Street, Maryland 21154

As early as the third quarter of the eighteenth century, there may have been a grist mill at Mill Green. That first mill, known as "Ashmore's Mill", was the hub of a community that included a saw mill and probably a store as well. During the 1820's John Ashmore's daughter, Susanna, and her husband, Nathaniel Smoloff Bemis, expanded the family enterprise with a forge and an ordinary. By the 1830's there was also a tannery, and the village was the scene of great activity and enterprise.

The kitchen wing of this house may date from the early phase of the village's growth and the south portion from the time Thomas H. Roberts or his daughter, Margaret Roberts Street, owned the mill in middle of the 19th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # 1300-775504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

John Famous' House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Box 47, Mill Green Road

CITY, TOWN

Street

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

MD

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John F. Famous

Telephone #: 836-1383

STREET & NUMBER

Box 47, Mill Green Road

CITY, TOWN

Street

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21154

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

NA-99

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story, gable-roofed frame house is situated in the village of Mill Green on the north side of Mill Green Road.

Set on a low stone foundation, the house faces south and consists of two units: the four-bay by three-bay south unit with a center front gable, a boxed cornice with gable returns, and two interior end brick chimneys with dentelled caps; the three-bay-long north kitchen wing has an interior end brick chimney with a corbelled cap and a one-story, shed-roofed addition on the north end. Most of the original 6/6 window sash have been replaced.

A one-story, hipped-roof porch spans the south or principal facade. In the first story, entrances are located in the center two bays, flanked by windows in the outer two bays. In the second story, the pair of windows in the center bay is flanked by one window on each side. The gable contains two 6/6 sash windows.

The east end has three windows in the first story, two in the second, and two in the gable.

Fenestration on the kitchen wing has been altered substantially.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As early as the third quarter of the Eighteenth Century, there may have been a grist mill at Mill Green. That first mill, known as "Ashmore's Mill" was the hub of a community that included a saw mill and probably a store as well. During the 1820's, John Ashmore's daughter Susanna and her husband, Nathaniel Smoloff Bemis expanded the family enterprise with a forge and an ordinary. By the 1830's, there was also a tannery. Local historian Mary Bristow described the town at that time as 'a rip-snorting company town, churning with energy, smoggy with the fires of the forge,... trembling with the clanging and thrashing and grinding of manufacturing. It reveled as the main N-S & E-W crossroads, right in the middle of north country travel." By 1915, the flour milling industry in Harford County was floundering.

The kitchen wing of this house may date from the early phase of the village's growth and the south portion from the time Thomas H. Roberts, Sr. or his daughter, Margaret Roberts Street, owned the mill (after 1838).

The owner of the land from 1771 until 1797 was Col. Ignatius Wheeler, one of the founders of St. Ignatius Catholic Church.

NA-99

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land, Will, and equity records of Harford County
1798 Tax List

"Two Hundred Years on John's Adventure," by Mary Bristow, Aegis, 6/3/77

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Natalie Shivers, Susan Deeney

9/79; 1/78

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Historic District Commission

838-6000, X 207

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Title Search
HA- 96, 97, 99, 100

GRG	526	214	1959	Grantor: Gordon D. Sanford Grantee: Frank E. Famous Acreage: 60¼ acres
GRG	371	463	1952	Grantor: Joseph E. Orr Grantee: Gordon D. Sanford Acreage: 61½ acres
GRG	365	14	1951	Grantor: Charles H. MacNabb, executor Grantee: Joseph E. Orr
DGW	206	333	1927	Grantor: Mabel May Huff Grantee: John W. Galbreath, Jr. Acreage: 64 acres
JAR	169	145	1920	Grantor: Ellsworth Huff Grantee: Lester Huff
WSF	102	429	1901	Grantor: Charity Huff Grantee: John Huff Acreage: "Jones' Gift" and "John's Adventure"
WSF	75	350	1893	Grantor: George Huff Grantee: Charity Huff
ALJ	9	377	1858	Grantor: James S. Robinson Grantee: George Huff Acreage: 62½ acres
CWB	7	300	1856	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of John Robinson Grantee: Heirs of John Robinson
CWB	7	274	1855	Grantor: Sarah Robinson Grantee: John Robinson
SR	1	444	1828	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of Sarah Robinson Grantee: John Robinson
HD	10	272	1827	Grantor: William Richardson Grantee: Joseph Stokes Acreage: 57¼ acres
HD	X	140	1815	Grantor: Harvey Stokes Grantee: Joseph Stokes Acreage: 85 acres

HD	W	317	1811	Grantor: Joseph Stokes Grantee: Harvey Stokes Acreage: 84 acres
HD	Y	47	1814	Grantor: John Ashmore Grantee: Joseph Stokes Acreage: 14¼ acres
JLG	N	364	1797	Grantor: Executors of Col. Ignatius Wheeler Grantee: Joseph Stokes Acreage: 51 acres
JLG	N	364	1771	Grantor: Joseph Renshaw Grantee: Col. Ignatius Wheeler

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: John Famos' house

AND/OR HISTORIC: _____

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: North side of Mill Green Road about 0.3 mi southeast of

CITY OR TOWN: Mill Green - near Street Prospect Road (Md 346)

STATE: Maryland CODE: _____ COUNTY: Harford CODE: _____

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: John Famos

STREET AND NUMBER: Mill Green

CITY OR TOWN: Street RFD STATE: Maryland 21154 CODE: _____

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER: Harford County Courthouse 40 S. Main St

CITY OR TOWN: Belt Air STATE: Maryland CODE: _____

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: _____

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: _____

DATE OF SURVEY: _____ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒ ?

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐ition ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

~~Original structure of the house was built in 18th century by the first owner. The house was built on a large lot and the original owner was a large dairy and had a large family. The house was built on a large lot and the original owner was a large dairy and had a large family. The house was built on a large lot and the original owner was a large dairy and had a large family.~~

Their man and his brother and father run a large dairy and love their work and their comfortable little village.

in by its present owner.

Additional windows on the east side of the wing improve the old kitchen. This part of the house might date from the 18th Century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HA-77

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Register, C. Milton Cur Harford Heritage p 177-178

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <i>Jean Ewing</i>		DATE: <i>Jan '70</i>
ORGANIZATION: <i>Maryland Historic Trust</i>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>50 State Circle</i>		
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Annapolis</i>	STATE: <i>Maryland</i>	CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



383 930 000 FEET (MD.) 384

385

20'

387 (B)



John Famous' House at Mill Green

HA-99

Street, Md. 21154

Susan M. Deeney

1/78

South